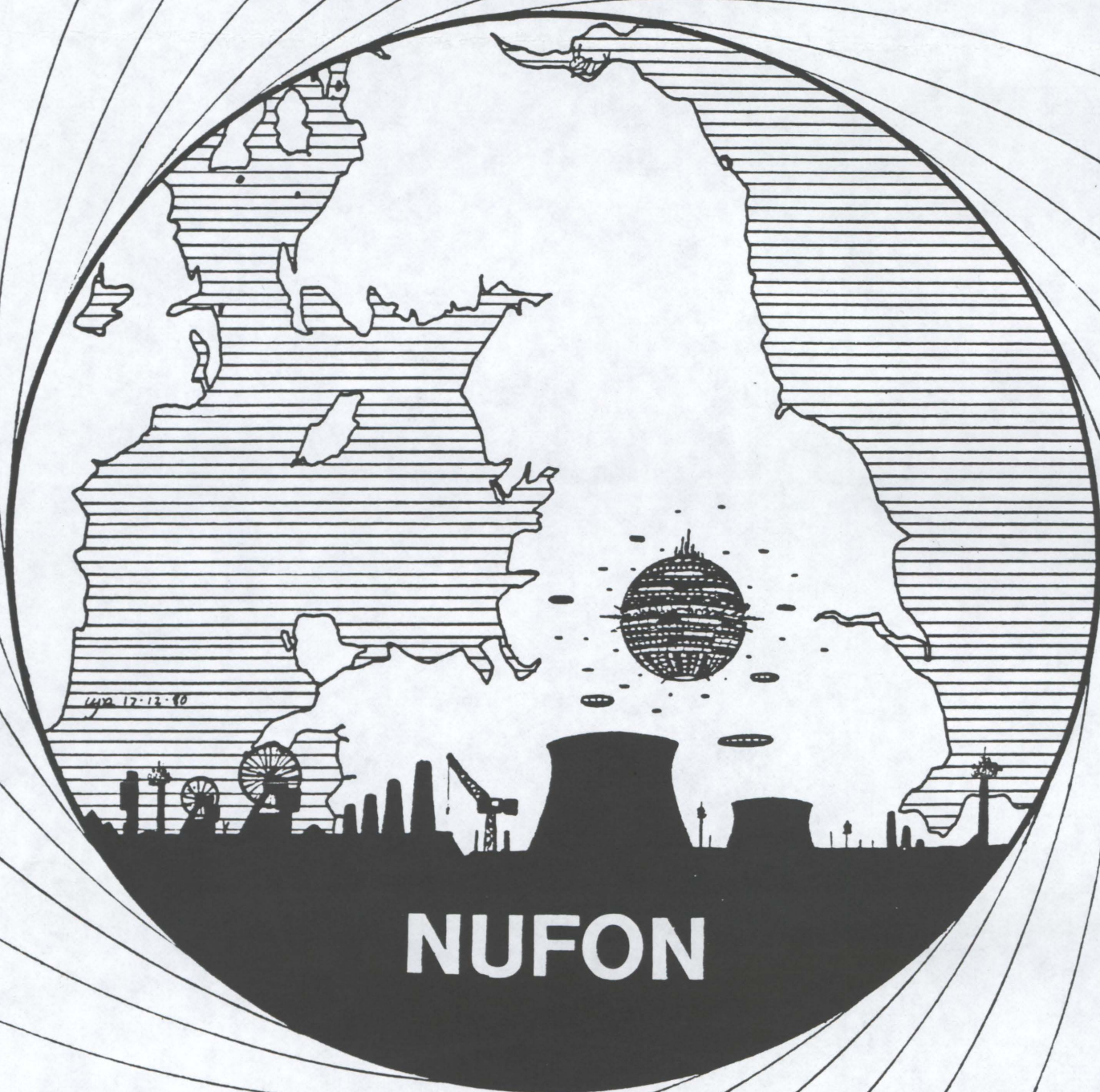


NORTHERN UFO NEWS



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EDITORIAL: FOR ALL TO SEE.... Experimental hallucinations

On April 26 1982 BBC-2 made a major contribution to anomaly research with the screening of a truly superb TV film "The Story of Ruth". Based on Dr Morton Schatzman's 1980 book (Duckworths, London) this true-life drama was vividly brought to life with an excellent recreation, tightly and sensitively written. Connie Booth (of Fawlty Towers fame) showed her prowess as an actress with a stunning performance in the very tough lead role and, I suspect, earned herself a well deserved nomination for a TV oscar.

Ruth, in case you do not know, is an American who was at the time of the events portrayed in this film living in London with her husband and three children. Her father (living in the States) had tried to rape her whilst she was a child and this powerful image re-emerged (for no very obvious reason) during a period of apparent sexual tension some twenty years later. At first this manifested only as vivid dreams. But then she actually saw her father... real, solid and behaving aggressively towards her. Nobody else could see him, of course. He was an hallucination. And Ruth knew this from the start. Even so this realisation did nothing to dispell the incredible reality which his image possessed... she could smell it, feel it, it spoke to her, and so on.

This film (produced with Dr Schatzman's help) shows the battle by the amiable psychiatrist to "cure" Ruth. But this attempt never followed the premise that she was insane (as Dr Schatzman put it... "insane people believe in their hallucinations"). Rather his work took the form of getting Ruth to accept her visions, to realise that she had remarkable powers of visualisation, and in this way to learn to control her experiences. Not only did he and Ruth succeed in their objectives, but they made significant scientific discoveries in the process.

Ultimately, Ruth was able to make hallucinations appear at will - hallucinations of almost anybody! She also produced images of herself and "blended" into them. In the resultant dissociate (trance) state she regressed to a past phase in her life and psychological tests conducted in this condition proved beyond reasonable doubt that she was fully recreating her self as at age 5 or 10. The significance of this for UFO regression experiments should be apparent. But the most astounding results of all came when Ruth was coupled to a brainscan machine. There are different characteristic patterns obtained when an eye sees a certain target and when a real object interposes and prevents this occurring. If Ruth's hallucinations were internal "brain pictures" they should not be capable of blocking the path of light rays to the eye. Yet when Ruth conjured up an hallucination every time this is precisely what did happen! There was no way to prove that her vision (which nobody else could see) was not of a real person standing in front of the target. The book shows how after this point (at which the film more or less ended) the astonished scientists tried to find out just how "real" the vision was in other senses. No photographs ever captured the hallucinations but some people on some occasions claimed to be able to see some of Ruth's creations!

The potential importance of this work for UFO theory needs little pointing out. I have written on the "psychic projection" hypotheses (UFOs: A BRITISH VIEWPOINT). Janet & Colin Bord (in a review of the Schatzman book in FSR Vol 27 No 1) have suggested its relevance. But mostly nuts and bolts theorists remain hostile. "Show me a projected UFO" is a frequent claim. This extraordinary case shows, I think, that such rejection could well be premature. For some UFOs do behave remarkably like Ruth's hallucinations. And Dr Schatzman's results simply mirror concepts several of us have already come to by a number of different routes. That alone suggests there may be something of value here.

But perhaps most importantly this case suggests experimental UFO work we could do. What about selecting contactees or very extreme repeater witnesses (eg Betty Hill or Gaynor Sunderland) - the kind of individual we tend to dismiss as "deluded" (just as one is tempted to dismiss Ruth) Could we get them to conjure up aliens or UFOs, like Ruth's "people"? Would they behave like real images too? I suspect that before we are tempted to call these ideas nonsense we should give very serious consideration to performing this work. For if we can duplicate Schatzman's results we will have a major UFO breakthrough on our hands. Any takers for this project (which I have already interested UFOIN advisor Dr Malcolm Scott - a Clinical Psychologist - in) ???

If "The Story of Ruth" gets a BBC-1 repeat - do not fail to watch it - and ponder.

TWO...

NEWS: :: Eric Westley advises me that UFOSIS (one of the longest standing groups in the NUFON system) is now suspended. This is sad news. It means that the city of Birmingham is yet again without a local group. There is a prospect of the remnants of UFOSIS joining in with UFORM (see below) and Eric has promised to keep in touch and do an appraisal of UFOSIS files for us.

:: UFORM (UFO RESEARCH MIDLANDS) is a new organisation formed by the merger of the Goalville UFO Group and HAPI (Hinckley). The new team, under the auspices of Graham Hall and Mark Brown (who is BUFORA RIC for the area) will be working to very high standards. More of this in coming months.

:: BUFORA plans are well underway for the 1983 International Congress (which may even be a three-day event this time). More news should be available in the next month or so, but meantime the Congress Organiser JOHN SHAW would like to make the 1983 exhibition the best yet - presenting an image of group unity. He would like your group to get together material for display on your work and local cases. Write to John at:- 5 Vardens Road LONDON SW11 1RQ (Tel: 01-223- 3388)

:: More conferences up and coming. The SPR (Society for Psychical Research) in their centenary year are planning a one-day symposium on UFOs. No more news yet. ASSAP too are contemplating an Autumn conference on UFOs in Manchester or Birmingham. More news on that soon. There are also moves now for a joint one day conference in London in October organised by ASSAP on behalf of the weekly magazine THE UNEXPLAINED. Meanwhile MUFORA and UFOR-Midlands have been having preliminary talks regarding a symposium to bring together Britain's UFO photographic evidence - to be presented all on one day (the best of it that is). If you have any ideas or case material for this last NUFON event please let me know. About November is a planned date.

:: Sad news to pass on concerns the death of Ken Edwards. Ken had a close encounter UFO experience at Risley, Cheshire, in March 1978 when he was struck by a beam of light. Shortly after this he contracted cancer and his condition deteriorated until he died, suddenly and unexpectedly in March of this year. I had kept in touch with Ken and his family and he had impressed me as one of the most sincere close encounter witnesses I have ever met. He never did recall what happened during a time lapse of over half an hour during his experience.

ELSEWHERE THIS MONTH...

AFU, the Swedish group (PO Box 11027 S-600 11 Norrköping 11 Sweden) have begun to produce their three-times a year newsletter almost entirely in English. It is good value for those who wish to keep up to date with Scandinavian happenings and research (often a good way ahead of us - sad to say!) UFO RESEARCH AUSTRALIA PO Box 229 Prospect South Australia 5082 is another excellent buy (\$12 surface, \$24 air for 6 glossy 32pp issues). In the Jan/Feb issue there is a good study of lightning effects causing ground traces and a super detailed report on an 1973 close encounter. From Mar/Apr on a scoop is promised as Bill Chalker has been given open access to the Aussie Air Force files on UFOs and plans to reveal all!! Back Home... COMMON GROUND (£4, or less to ASSAP members, for 4 36pp issues) has just completed its first excellent year. Issue 5 has articles on Divination, Psi/UFO interfaces, modern occultism, coincidence research and rotating poles - plus other bits and bobs and extensive reviews (14 Northfold Rd Knighton Leicester) MAGONIA 9 is out, too, and still only £2 for 4 packed issues (including an installment of Peter Rogerson's INTCAT - CE catalogue each issue). 9 has special NUFON interest with Nigel Watson on romantic writers and Ufology and a perceptive follow-on from stuff Ian Cresswell & Granville Oldroyd of NLUFOIG have written for NUN, on the subject of close encounters and dream states. A long and generally very interesting (and perceptive) review of ALIEN CONTACT too. (ALIEN C has, to my surprise, sold paperback rights to Coronet, incidentally) (64 Alric Ave New Malden Surrey KT3 4JW)

NOTE In the last issues news notes it was said that there were rumours of a relationship between OSEAP and the British UFO Society. Mark Tyrell of OSEAP has asked me to print the following statement, which I am pleased to do....." REGARDLESS OF WHAT KIND OF ORGANISATION BUFOS MAY NOW BE, THERE HAS NEVER BEEN ANY DISCUSSION ABOUT A LINK-UP WITH IT, NOR HAS ANY APPROACH BEEN MADE TO ANY MEMBER OF BUFOS ABOUT SUCH AN IDEA"

NO ROOM FOR BELIEVERS....

Much to the chagrin of some who were present (and no doubt the pre-viewer of this affair for NUFOIS, who shot it to pieces before it had happened!) the ASSAP one-day conference in Leicester on April 17 (ASSAPs first big event) was definitely not the place to be if one wanted cherished beliefs reconfirmed. It was in fact almost exactly the opposite, critically analysing and frequently tearing to shreds various paranormal phenomena. Dr Sue Blackmore gave a taster for her book on OOBes (out of the body experiences) boldly proclaiming she had undergone them herself and that to properly study them one has to experience them. But she explained why she felt they were a vivid type of hallucination.... Hilary Evans looked at the classic abduction case of Msr Fontaine from France and effectively showed how it was quite untenable. Not only was it clearly a hoax which got out of hand, but some well known French researchers scarcely escaped without severe question marks.... Paul Begg in the tradition of his super book INTO THIN AIR demolished the Bermuda Triangle and showed it to be perhaps the greatest myth man has ever created. His humour was laconic too.. My talk was slightly more ambivalent. At least I did not prove the whole of UFO regression and past-life studies worthless! But on the way I think I showed that hypnosis is a dangerous tool to play with and these fantastic stories which emerge by way of it should - at the least - be treated to a great deal of scepticism. Bob Cracknell was the only believer there, in much of a real sense. He is a psychic who believes in his psychometric powers (although his demonstration was not a runaway success). But even he tore into the traditions of Spiritualism and Indian Guides and gave short shrift to those wishing to contact "dead Aunt Mary". All in all this was a brilliant illustration of what ASSAP is all about - covering a broad range of topics in a straightforward, honest and cut and thrust fashion - but leaving the door of mystery just a little ajar. Keep this up ASSAP - it is a first rate start - and Kevin McClure deserves many congratulations for slotting it together.

----- TV TIMES....

Television has been going to town on UFOs lately, which may or may not be a good thing. I never involve myself in publicity without forethought. For example, when contacted by a highly apologetic BBC producer and asked to set someone up so that WOGAN could make fun of UFOs my reply can be imagined... and I sounded off my views about the media presentation of our subject. WOGAN went ahead and persuaded the Aetherius Society to look silly (not exactly the journalistic task of the decade for the jovial Irishman) Next day the press were much amused. I saw several notes about "apparent loonies raving on about flying saucers"... and who in the public can tell MUFORA or MIGAP apart from the Aetherians... ask yourself that fellow loonies! My future reaction to Terry Wogan will continue to be Blankety Blank - but (as this shows) TV will go ahead anyway and find someone who will talk.

One good thing to emerge from WOGAN was a tip off that HORIZON (the BBC-2 fine science series) was doing a UFO programme. This was interesting as in 1981 when they tried (and failed) to persuade me to appear on their Extraterrestrial Life show I suggested that it was time they tackled UFOs. I followed up with a letter but got no answer. And when I got the WOGAN tip in April I wrote again.. but still never received a reply. But at least they were doing something.

Meanwhile the BBC (true to form) had succeeded in coming up with a third UFO feature (quite unbeknowns to the rest I am sure). This began as WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT? and went through several permutations to become ITS AMAZING. This looked interesting. Dr Gregory, a well known psychologist who specialises in optical illusions, is involved and so a UFO spot on here looked worthy. They wanted some good local cases and eventually filmed two Rossendale valley close encounters featured in NUN of late. Then they asked for some general chat to tie up loose ends (although the naivety of the interviewer was shown by his typical question... ARE THESE FOLK ALL MAD?) (I resisted answering - No- only half-mad) Anyhow this programme (due on a Friday in June/July BBC-1) should be OK... the witnesses are good and the cases meaty - solid UFOs - nothing too exotic.

As you see the crucial problem with media relations is - do you say NO when asked? It depends. The way I look at it is this. If I reckon that by trying to say something sensible about UFOs I can a) reasonably hope to get away with it and b) prevent someone else appearing who might well say something less sensible then I say YES. Maybe that is egotistical. I just think it is practical. In some senses we all have a duty to ufology to present our case, and present it well.

FOUR...

HORIZON did get in touch eventually (after reading one of my books). This promising show will probably open the new BBC-2 series in September/October. 99 % is filmed and virtually all of it in America. Interviews with Hynek, Hendry, Maccabben, Klass, Schaeffer and some good stuff from Persinger on the piezo-electric effect (world exclusive film of his experiments promised!) The tone is very sceptical, though, and the producer seems to have decided the "message" should be that UFO investigators have a religious need to believe in UFOs. Naturally the BBC were asked what happened to British Ufology. The reply? Last Autumn they met "a major UK group" (whom I will not name) and the impression left was that there was no serious British ufology and no case worth filming! Hence the expedition to the USA. Peter Warrington and I did our best to change their minds on this, but the programme is virtually complete and there is only a small chance of being able to put something British in it now. What this will do to the image of UK ufology remains to be seen.

Finally, to prove the TV silly season was well and truly underway, GRANADA TV invited a number of paranormal researchers from the region to its Liverpool studios on May 26 to do a live EXCHANGE FLAGS programme (I was told on UFOs - though it was never intended that way it seems). Live shows are OK. You can say what you want and they cannot edit you out. But the reality was vastly different. A Liverpool ship was sunk by an Argentine missile that day and the show was cancelled at the last minute (to be recorded after the new live Falklands show). Dr Julian Isaacs, a metal bending researcher from Aston University, and some peculiar American sci-fi writer (John Sladek) were supposed to lock swords in battle but they could have done with a few words of advice from the task force. John Sladek was the most amiable supposed sceptic I have ever met...and the most interesting and valuable discussions went on before and after the show when Peter Warrington, Marion and Gaynor Sunderland and myself had a protracted debate with a Liverpool University psychologist about the nature of reality and the acceptability of evidence (he doesn't even believe in ball lightning!) When Granada wheeled on a dry ice machine, a couple of gravestones, and a half open coffin and some camera operator started waving rubber bats on a long pole in front of the camera, there was uproar. People threatened to walk out. Poor Oenone Williams (the presenter) battled bravely through her dreadful jokes..."Today's subject is a grave one..which a lot of people are bats about" (Gean) But there was little chance of a serious effort after that. The shambles was so bad and the Sladek - Isaacs debate so one-sided and lacking in venom that it seems the decision was quickly taken to axe the programme! Only GRANADA TV can have the distinction of taking as its subject the whole of the paranormal and succeed in making it so damn boring!

Oh well - at least something reasonable is looming on the HORIZON.

UFO / IFO A SCUFORI/PROBE 42pp small-print litho booklet with photographs.

A great tonic to the lunacy above. Following on from the excellence of PROBE REPORT magazine this booklet (first in a promised series) is a compilation of specially written articles on the question of identification. Sample topics...Investigation Procedures, Ian Ridpath on Astronomical misidentifications, Dr Sue Blackmore on witness perceptions, Eric Crew on ball lightning and much other stuff (eg aircraft misids and photographic problems) There are also several new examples of the super "Case Closed" series where a case is taken to pieces and, with the help of experts in various fields, explained. Here we have things such as noctilucent clouds and a new type of silvered balloon. But for good measure a none explained case is thrown in to illustrate investigation procedures. This is terrific stuff - literally cram packed full too. 80 p (plus post) from 29 Lethbridge Rd Swindon Wilts SN1 4BY. Great value. Buy it! "...no serious British Ufology..." indeed. BBC-2 where are you now???

THE SWORD AND THE STONE (Issue 2 of THE SUPERNATURALIST) 74pp book by Andy Collins

To summarise this in a review of a few words is hopeless (see insert). Elsewhere I will attempt to do this incredible affair more justice. In a few weeks the case will be the talk of British paranormal circles when Graham Phillips and Martin Keatman publish their Neville Spearman book (THE GREEN STONE). Andy too is planning a book. But this is the first public presentation of what on the face of it is an incredible and yet singularly important report. How does one categorise it? It has everything. An adventure story that has the advantage of truth. It involves people that most of you know and so can presumably trust (including Marion and Gaynor Sunderland - who have a role in the mystery). It concerns psychic messages, a race against time, and a

FIVE...

truly astonishing series of weird incidents that led this band of muskateers across the midlands countryside in the dead of night to find buried treasure - a sword inscribed with Mary Queen of Scots motto and a fabled jewel-like stone said to possess magic powers. It sounds like the stuff Roger Moore movies are made out of - but the sword and the stone exist (there are photos in this book alongside many others and detailed maps). All I can say about this is - READ IT - and then make up your own mind. It might turn the world of the paranormal upside down overnight.
£1.50 from Andy Collins at 19 St Davids Way Wickford Essex SS11 8EX

LOW Definition

INVESTIGATIONS

Case	Time	Location	Investigators	Inv Level
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72: JUL 9	23.30	Whithorn, Scotland	Bill Gibbons	D
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Nine people in a minibus saw a "ball of fire" about the size of a TV set cut across their path and then change course to pace the bus alongside. The bus accelerated to 80 MPH but it kept up. It bounced along the roadside every 60 yards and changed colour from red to green to blue to yellow to orange to white. One witness climbed under the seat in hysterics. The object left by moving away cross country. Sounds like a most impressive encounter with ball lightning... One for the archives??

77: UNKNOWN	01.00	Macclesfield, Cheshire	Jenny Randles	C MUFORA
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W LITS seen moving slowly in distance, occasionally displaying other lights. Almost certainly an aircraft circling to land at Manchester Airport.

79: JAN 13	17.30	Bishop Thornton, N Yorks	JR (May be pursued further)	D
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Old couple who own a farmhouse in midst of nowhere (near Menwith Hill top secret communications establishment where UFOs have been seen before!) observed a large ball of W LITS over roof. It came slowly towards them totally silent and very low. They looked away momentarily and on looking back the object had vanished. Ball lightning??

82: MAY 11	23.45	Runcorn, Cheshire	MIGAP investigating	D (at present)
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Witness saw two red lights near the Runcorn/Widnes suspension bridge over the River Mersey. They faded in and out and then moved off very slowly. Liverpool Airport is nearby but witness is sure this was not an a/c... could it be a boat?? Seems likely.

MEDIUM Definition

80: OCT 19	22.00	Buckley, Clwyd	BUFORA	C
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Middle aged woman was putting some washing in a bag when she saw a brilliant LITS in the S. An aircraft then flew over and the LITS rose, travelled NE a little and then turned back to the SW. As it did this it passed directly in front of the moon which gave the witness a "superb view" of the object. She describes it as round dome shaped with brilliant light being poured out from all round. The underside was in strong shadow. It passed across the sky out of view in total silence. Indeed she was surprised by the eerie stillness of its passage (the OZ FACTOR Once again)



80: NOV 30	18.00	Walsden, W Yorks	Jenny Randles	B MUFORA
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Two days after the Alan Godfrey encounter in a village beside Todmorden a farming family observed a white oval "with a bump on top" moving low and slow along the valley. It was silhouetted against the hill-line and stopped by some pylons before moving away in silence. The children rushed out for a better view. The adults stayed inside. But some weeks later the same object returned and the mother saw it hover directly above the farmhouse. At this point the father says the TV set was "snowy".

81: NOV 28	21.55	Bingley, W Yorks	Nigel Mortimer	B
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Man who has seen dozens of lightball UFOs in the area saw an object he claims was too low for a meteor. It flashed across the sky in 2/3 seconds and had a white cone shaped head with a blunt bluish tail. It was silent. Chances are this was a meteor.

82: FEB 5	21.15	Newton Stewart, Scotland	Bill Gibbons	A
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Bright flashing LITS observed by man in car. Car was parked and object approached and passed overhead. It was cigar shaped with a flashing W LITS on the tail and three long "poertholes" along the side. No wings were seen and no sound heard. It took 15 mins to pass out of sight over the Galloway Hills moving low and at an estimated speed of just 30MPH. RAE West Freugh said there were no aircraft but suggested it was a meteor!! Sounds like it could be a helicopter or even an airship.

SIX...

A CRAZY DAY IN WEST YORKSHIRE

Crazy Day is the term I use for a date when UFO incidents suddenly occur simultaneously in various parts of the UK. APRIL 17 1982 seems to have been one such day. Oddly many researchers were then contemplating the reality or otherwise of UFOs at the ASSAP conference. In fact on my return home I saw something myself which I reported to MUFORA right away but put little store by it. I had got off the train at Birchwood station (at 21.24) It was more or less dark. I observed a deep red single light which pulsed about once a second and moved steadily from my right to left (E to W). It crossed a large arc of sky in this time and never appeared as more than a light (although there was some light left in the sky). It also made no sound. The sea was quiet with little wind and I could hear the motorway traffic beyond the object in the same direction. My presumption was that it was a helicopter heading towards the USAF base at Burtonwood - rare, but possible in view of the Falklands situation. Perhaps this is so. Perhaps there were military manoeuvres that night. Oscar Fowler of SIGAP has just submitted a report for APR 17 of a hovering object with afterburners which straddled a road in Surrey and frightened two car occupants who drove under it. In some respects that report sounds like a hovering Harrier jet. Anyway...to progress...things began to hot up in the Tedmorden ufocal this night too. A better report will come in THE PENNINE UFO MYSTERY (Granada, next year) but briefly.... at about 21.00 (until almost 22.00) a cigar shaped object with a mass of lights was seen over the hills. The lights were seen to split off and move away. Dozens of people in the local area flocked to see over the next couple of nights and a LITS was reported on the 18th and 19th. Mike Sacks of MUFORA travelled there on the 19th and saw the LITS at 21.20. He identified this particular UFO as the star Sirius. Meanwhile in daylight at 12.50 on the 19th three schoolboys had observed a red disc that flashed to silver meandering across the sky slowly during their lunchbreak. It crossed above a vapour trail. Nigel Mortimer followed up this Bradford case. One boy said he felt cold and eerie when the UFO was there "like when my pet budgie died" (!) There was again the isolation and stillness effects of the OZ Factor (also referred to by the witnesses in Surrey who said the traffic on the road temporarily vanished whilst the UFO was in sight). This three-day mini-wave in West Yorkshire ended with a bang (literally). At 16.31 on April 20 a mystery skyquake rocked Tedmorden. It was described as similar to a force 4 earthquake and movement on the Craven Fault (which runs through Tedmorden) was suspected. However, geology experts and seismological readings suggested that if it was a quake it was very small. Police found no other explanation - eg a sonic boom from a military aircraft - but this remains the most feasible option. Mind you the progress of this flap and its culmination certainly fits the Persinger hypotheses about slow release of piezo-electric effects prior to a sudden jerk and earthquake.

OVNI Français photographed..... Investigation by Mark Brown of UFOR- Midlands

Following some local publicity a witness contacted Mark in February 1982 to offer for analysis a UFO photograph taken by him a few months earlier. The case was sufficiently interesting to be followed up and an excellent 10pp report was prepared.

The witness is a 36 yr old plumbing engineer who lives in Ibstock, Leicestershire. On November 16 1981 at 09.00 he and his wife left East Midlands airport for a holiday in Majorca. They flew on a packed Orion Airways Boeing 737. The witness had just purchased a new Zenith E camera and was keenly using it to take photographs. He had a roll of 36 exposure Kodak colour print film and had taken a couple of shots already from the aircraft. At approximately 10.45 hrs whilst above the Pyrennees he saw what

he took to be a formation of 4 or 5 Spanish Air Force jets. He was keen to get a picture and so lined up the relatively distant targets. But as he was doing so the aircraft hit some turbulence and his arm was jerked. The trigger clicked and he presumed the shot wasted. He thus gave up his attempts to capture the aircraft.

But when the film was developed one of the early shots (which appears to be this one) developed to show out of focus mountains and a blurred diamond-like image in the top left corner. Enlargement is not overly practicable in view of the degree of blurring. Mark had the photograph analysed by a local photographer who was certain the object is real and at distance from the camera. He also checked with Orion to ascertain if any reports were made by crew or other passengers (they were not). From navigational data it was found the aircraft was roughly 40 miles SE of Toulouse and the witness was looking into a French Military Air zone. When the shadows on the image are studied a discshape appears impossible. Mark believes a French military jet, tilted at an angle, was seen and photographed by the witness.

